Intern d Application No

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT PCT/ZA2005/000002 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C22B3/04 C22B3/02 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C22B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 5 071 477 A (THOMAS ET AL) 1,2,4-7,10 December 1991 (1991-12-10) 12,18, 19,21, 22,25,30 Υ figure 1; column 6, lines 12-15 13-17 Υ US 4 606 763 A (WEIR ET AL) 13-17 19 August 1986 (1986-08-19) the whole document X US 3 917 519 A (FISHER ET AL) 30-32 4 November 1975 (1975-11-04) claim 1; figure; column 4, lines 50-54 US 4 578 163 A (KUNTER ET AL) X 30 25 March 1986 (1986-03-25) figures; column 4, line 8 - column 5, line 17 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family

25 May 2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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